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Hansen et al.

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(54) **METHOD OF SUPERCHARGING AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE**

(71) Applicant: **HANSEN ENGINE CORPORATION**,
Plymouth, MN (US)

(72) Inventors: **Craig N. Hansen**, Plymouth, MN (US);
Paul C. Cross, Shorewood, MN (US)

(73) Assignee: **HANSEN ENGINE CORPORATION**,
Plymouth, MN (US)

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F02B 39/06 (2006.01)
F02B 39/16 (2006.01)
F04C 28/26 (2006.01)
F04C 23/00 (2006.01)
F04C 18/16 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **F04C 28/26** (2013.01); **F02B 33/36** (2013.01); **F02B 39/06** (2013.01); **F02B 39/16** (2013.01); **F04C 18/16** (2013.01); **F04C 23/006** (2013.01); **F04C 2250/10** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC **F04C 18/16**; **F02B 33/36**; **F02B 39/06**; **F02B 39/16**
See application file for complete search history.

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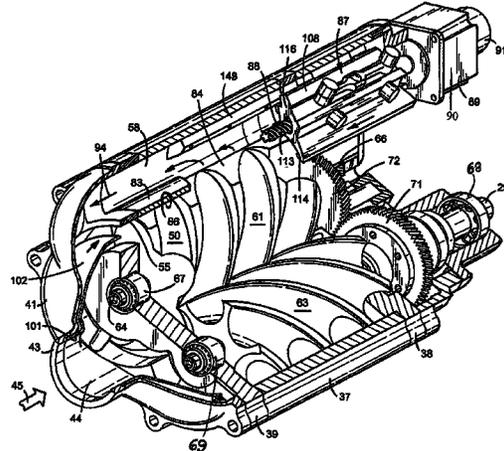
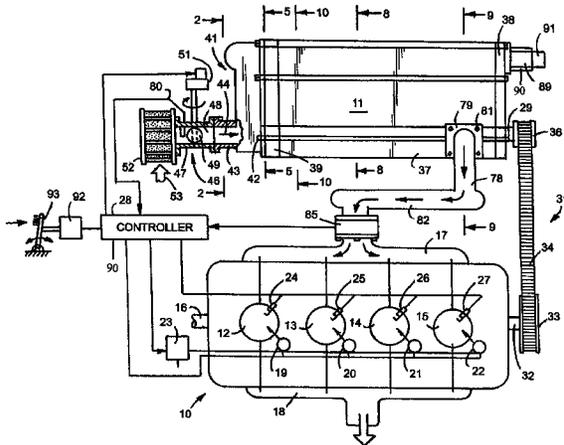
Primary Examiner — Mary A Davis

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Richard John Bartz

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A supercharged internal combustion engine has a supercharger operable to selectively supply a mass of air from below through above atmospheric air pressure according to the operating requirements of the engine. The supercharger has a shuttle combined with a throttle valve that controls the mass of air directed to an air mass bypass opening and supplied to the internal combustion engine. The shuttle has rollers that ride on rails that allow the shuttle to move to open and close the air mass bypass opening in communication with a casing that directs a mass of atmospheric air and a bypass mass of air interfused with the mass of atmospheric air to an air mass inlet of the supercharger.

18 Claims, 19 Drawing Sheets



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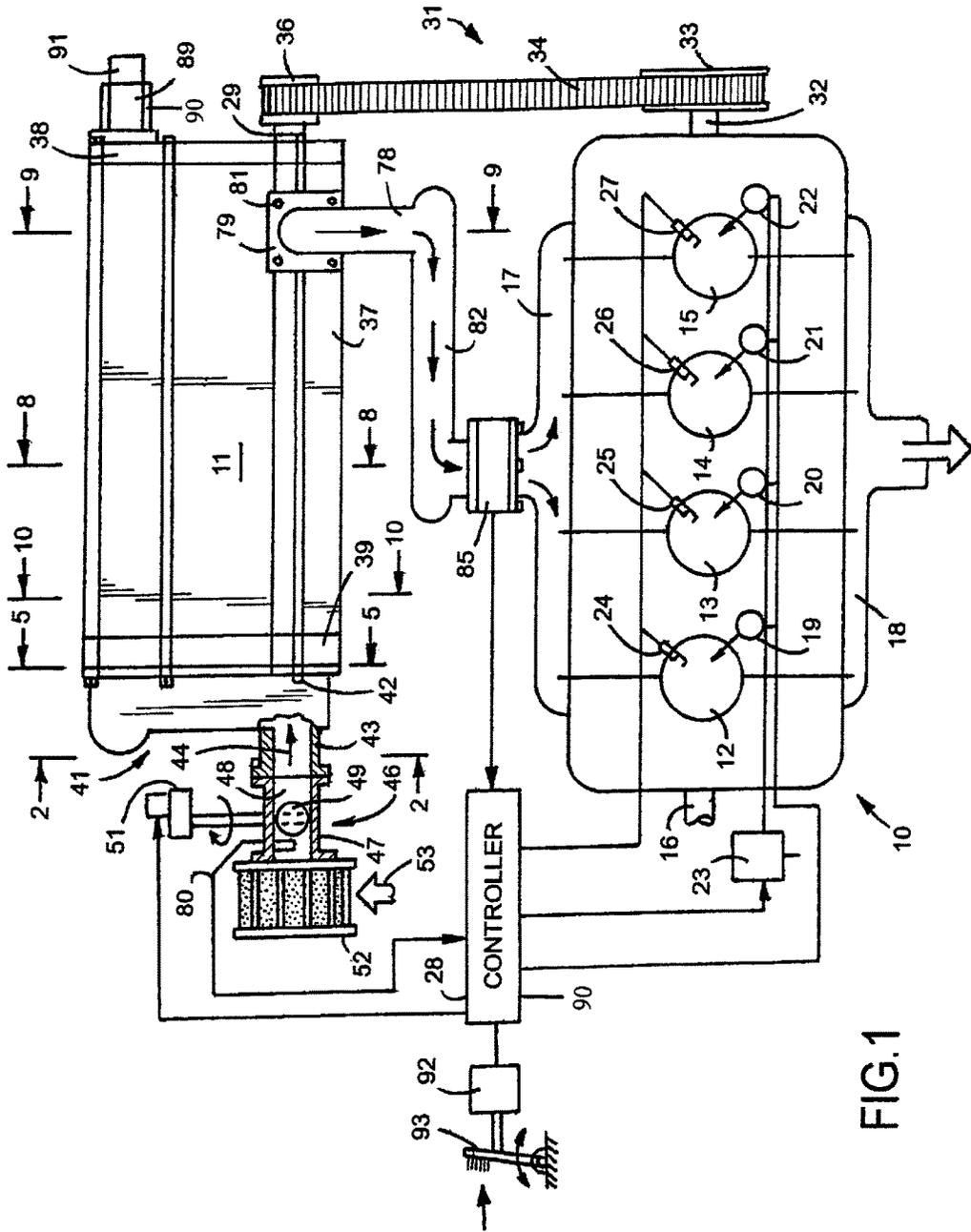


FIG.1

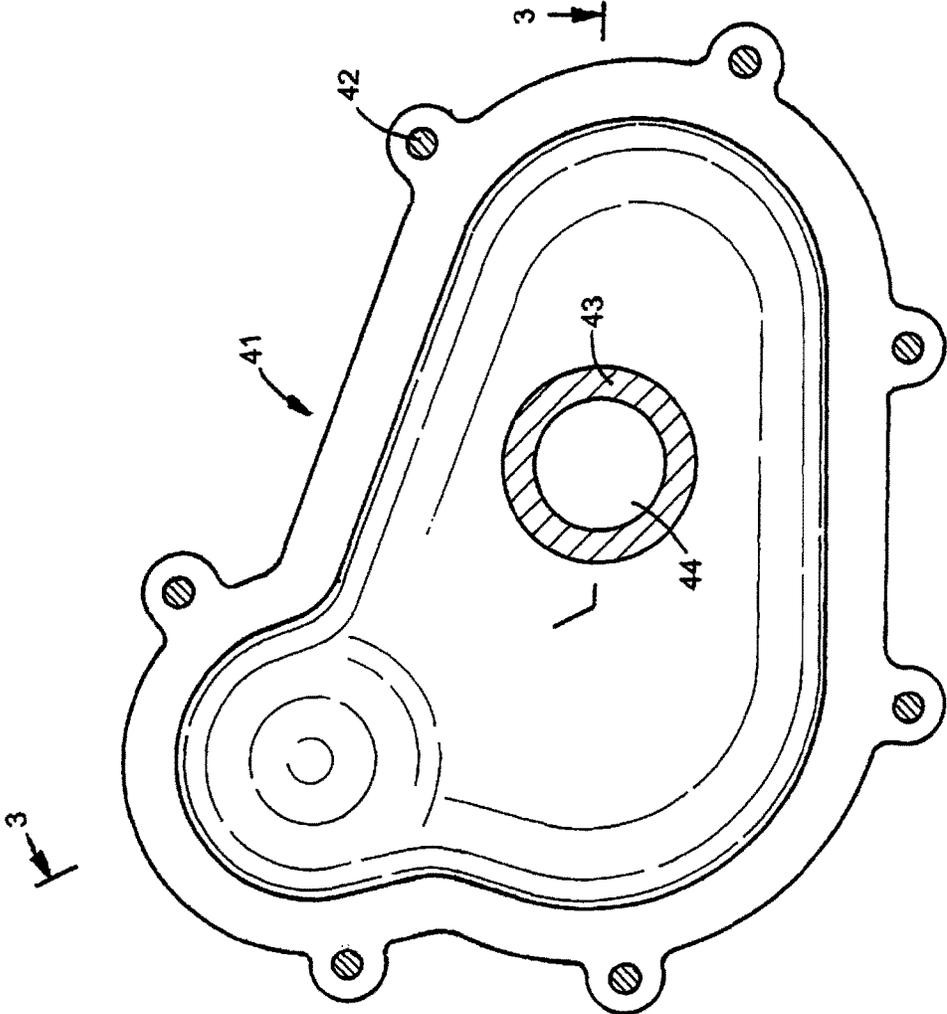


FIG.2

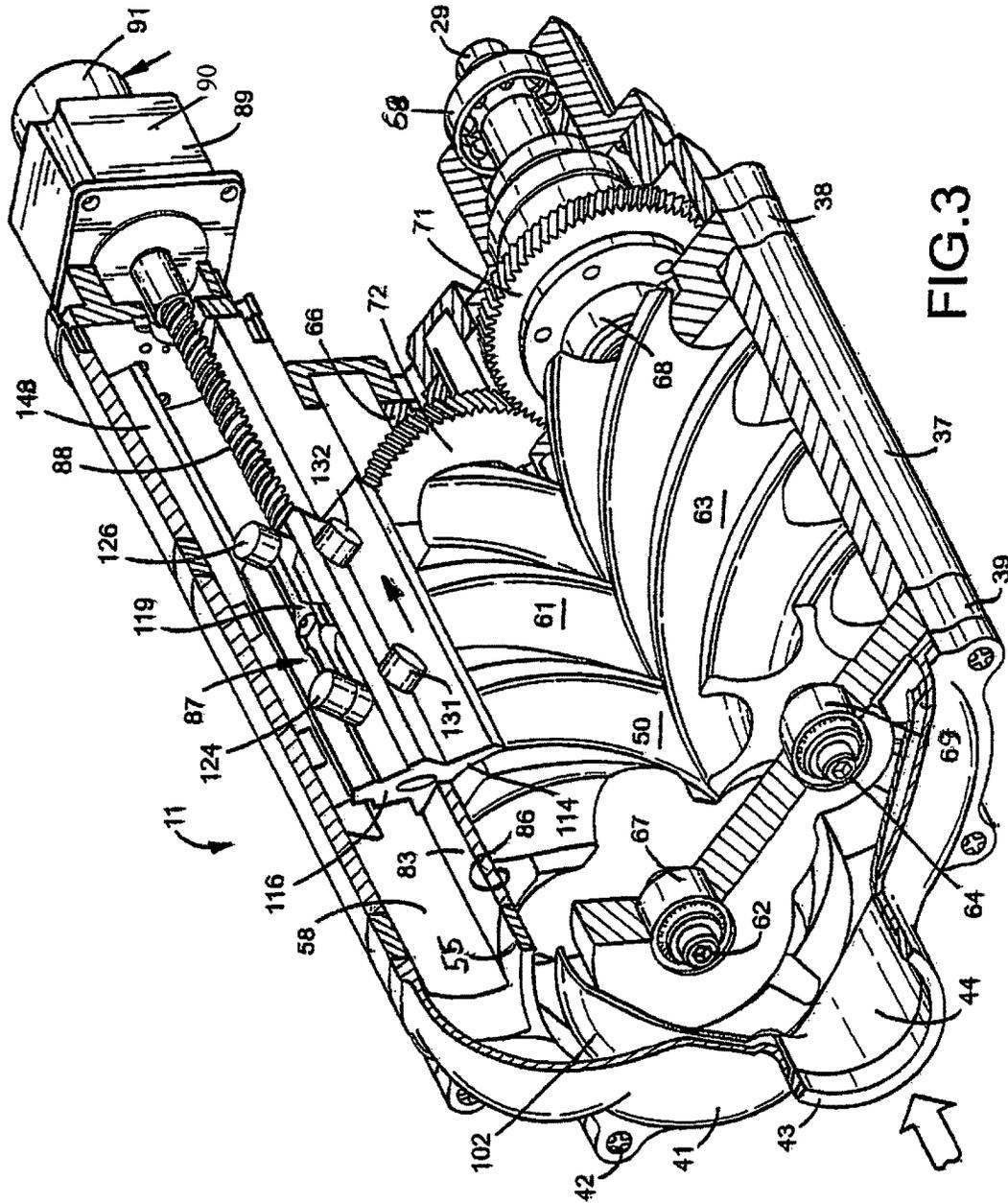
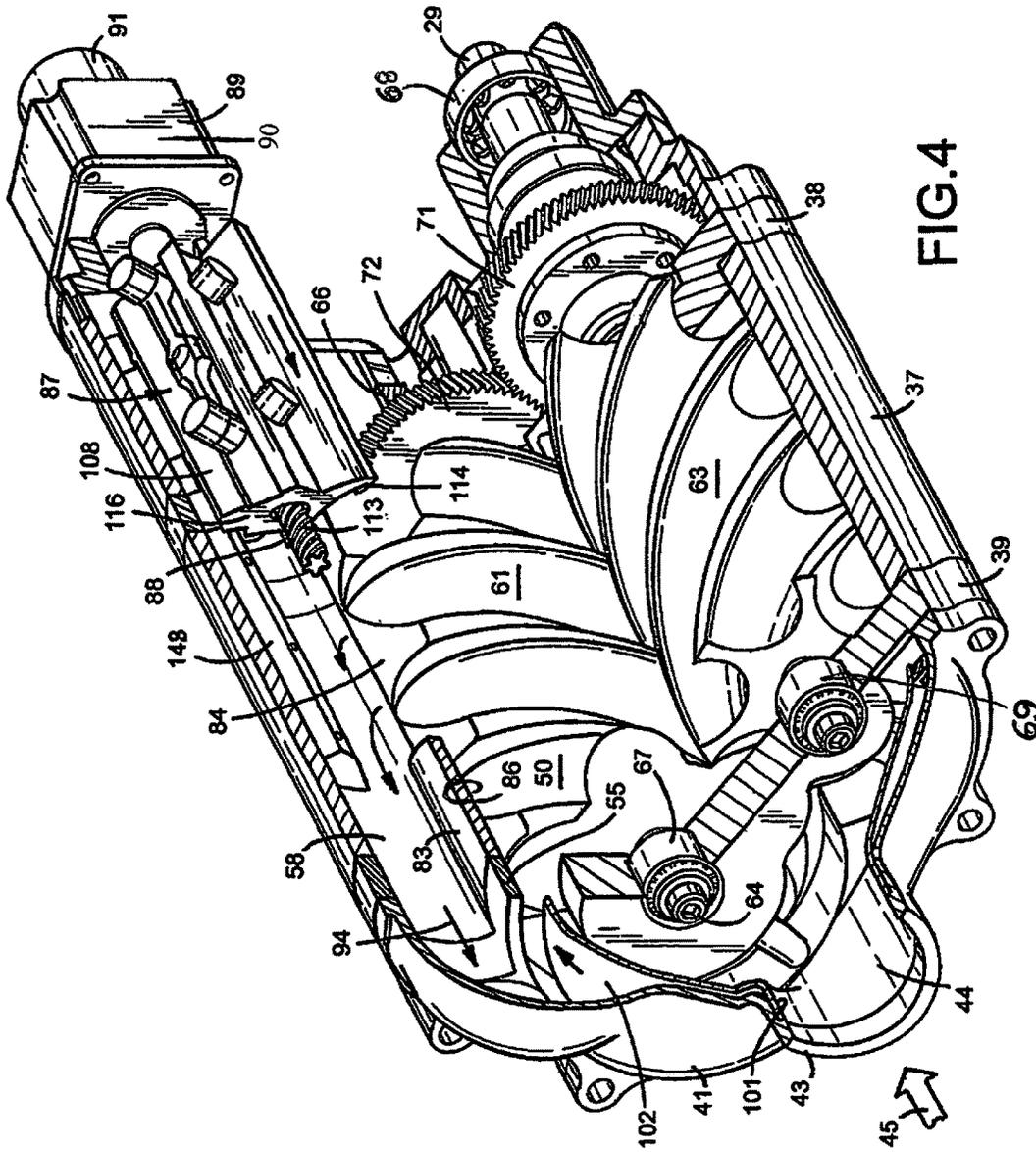


FIG. 3



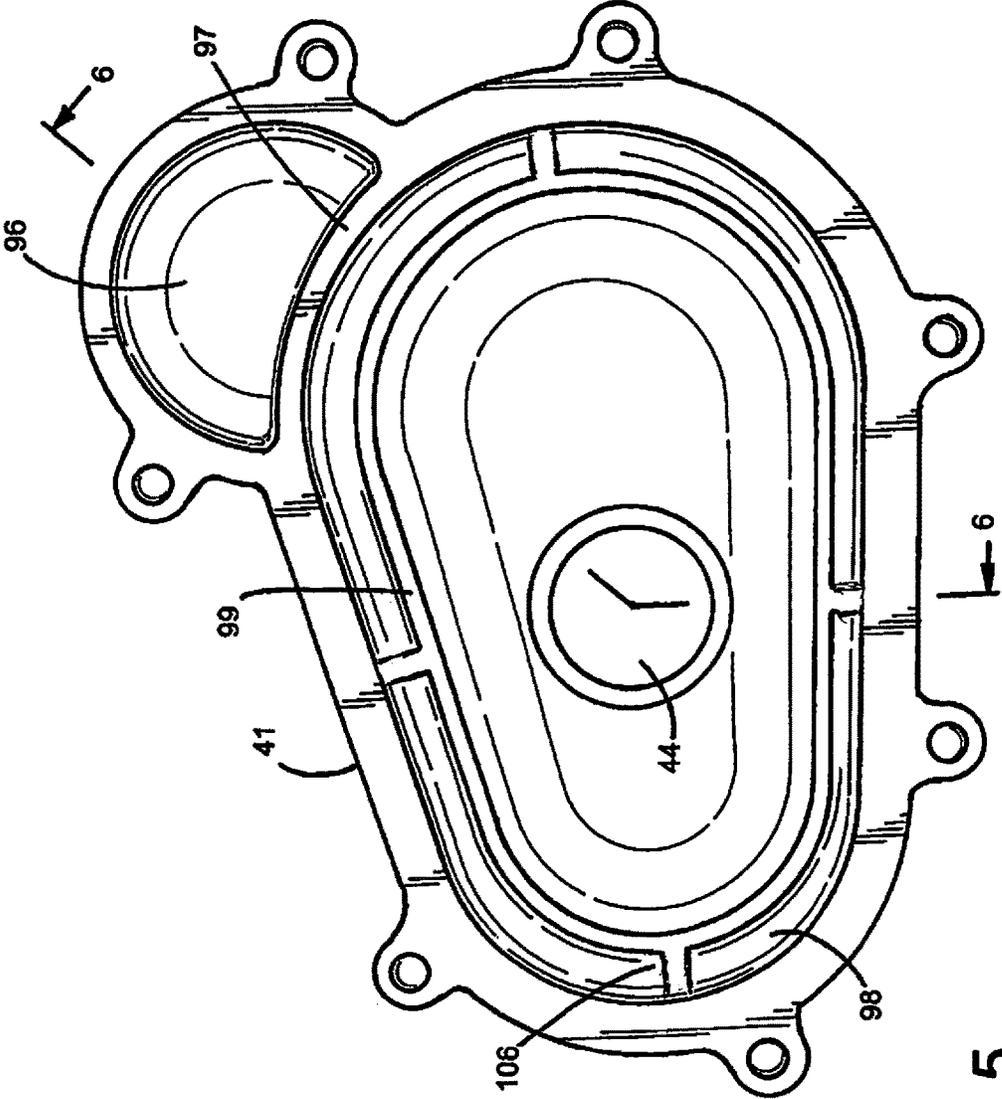


FIG.5

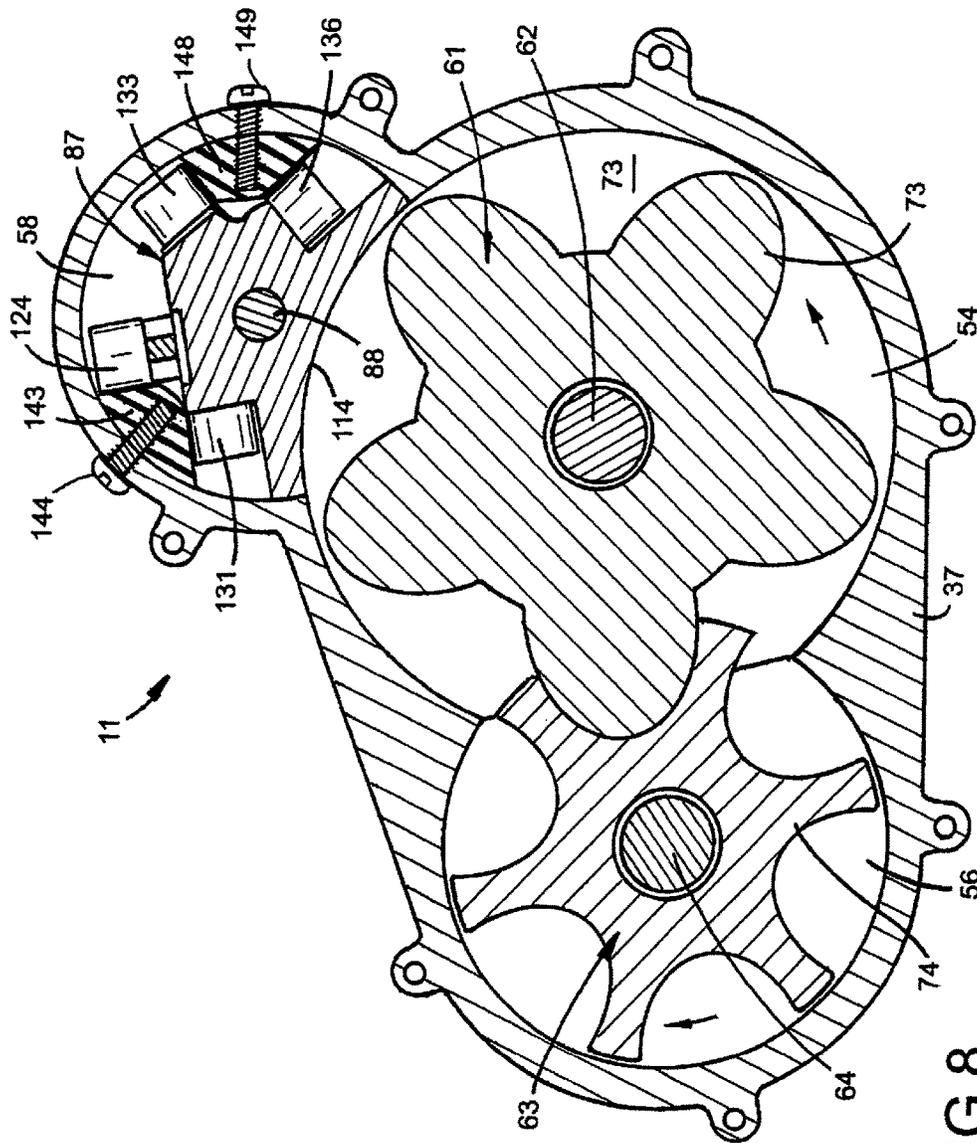


FIG.8

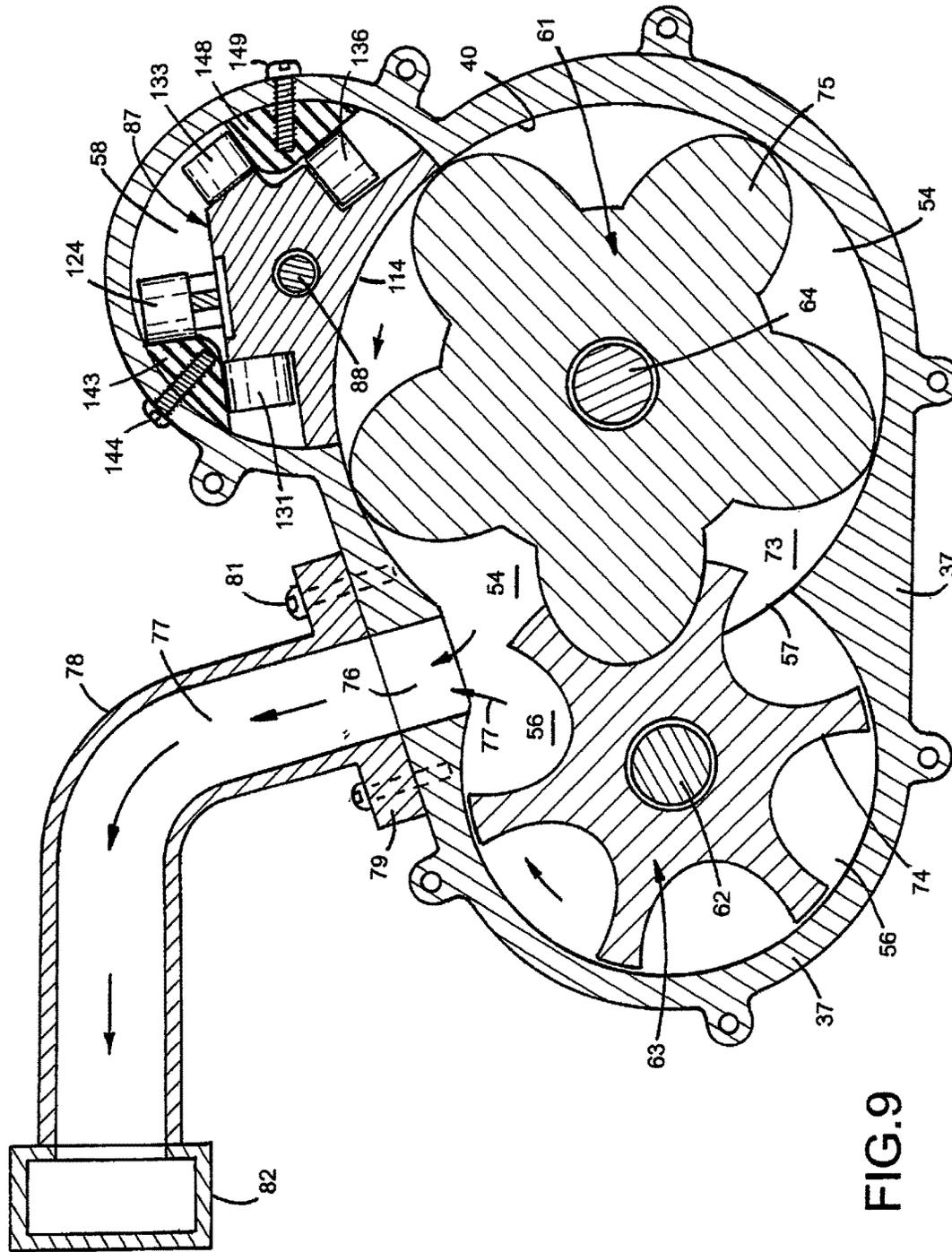


FIG. 9

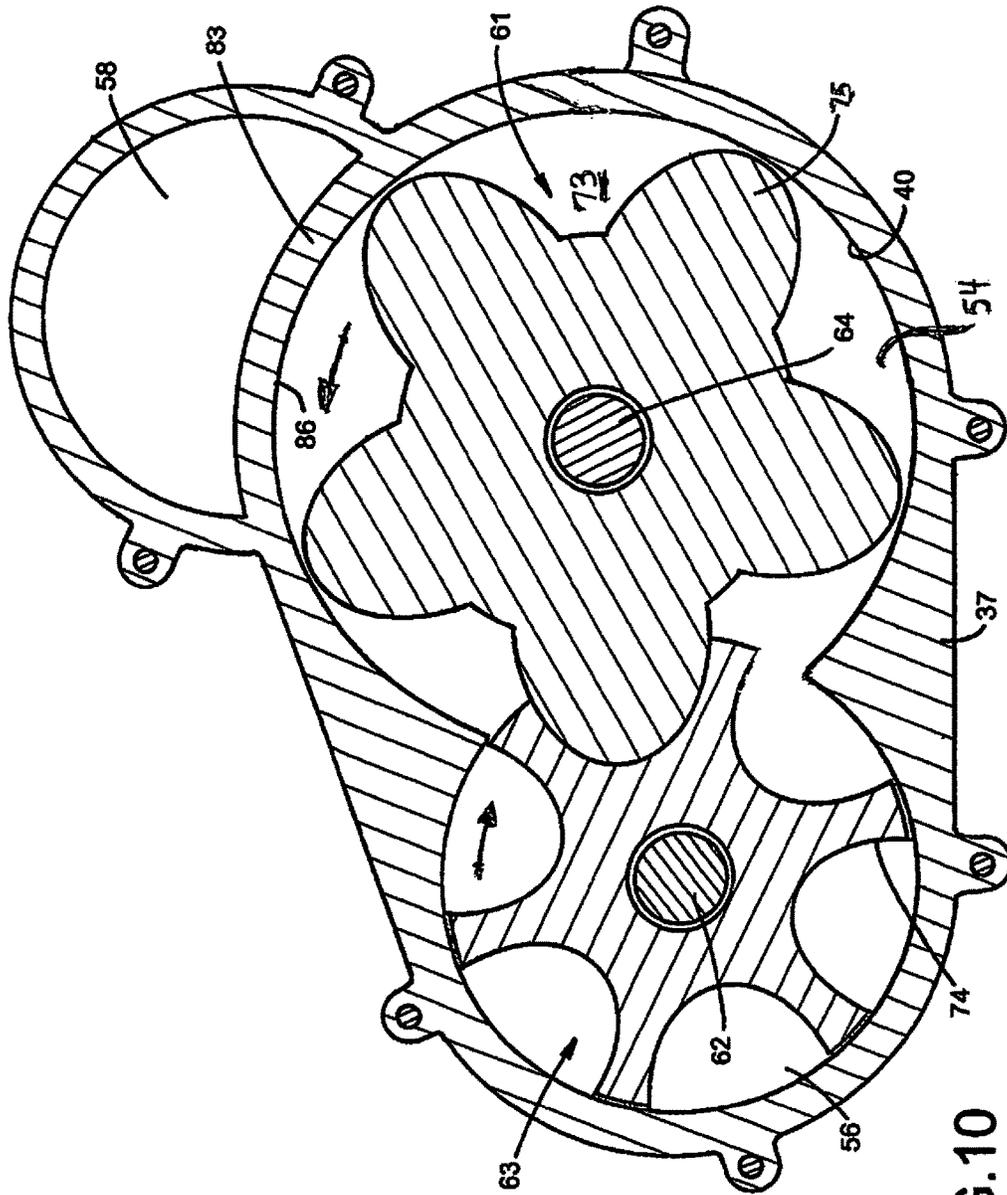


FIG. 10

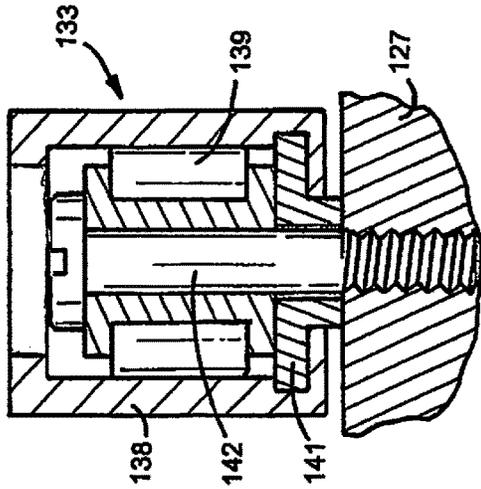


FIG. 16

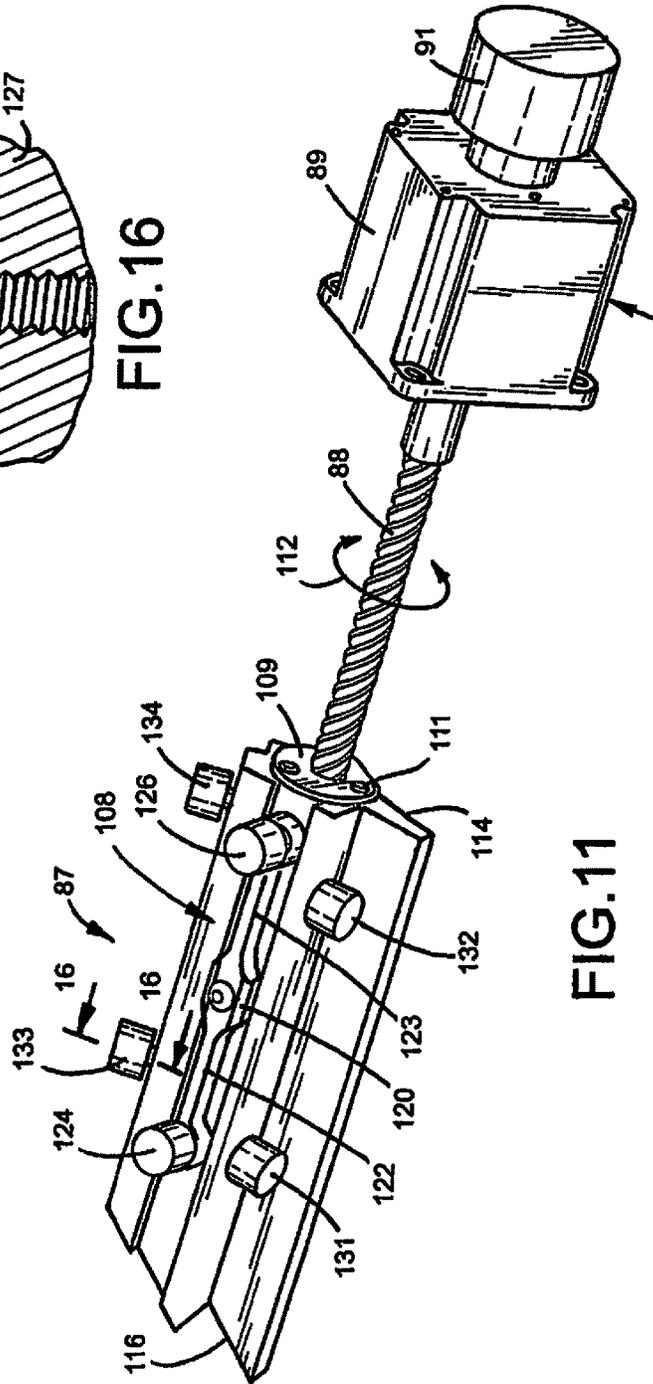


FIG. 11

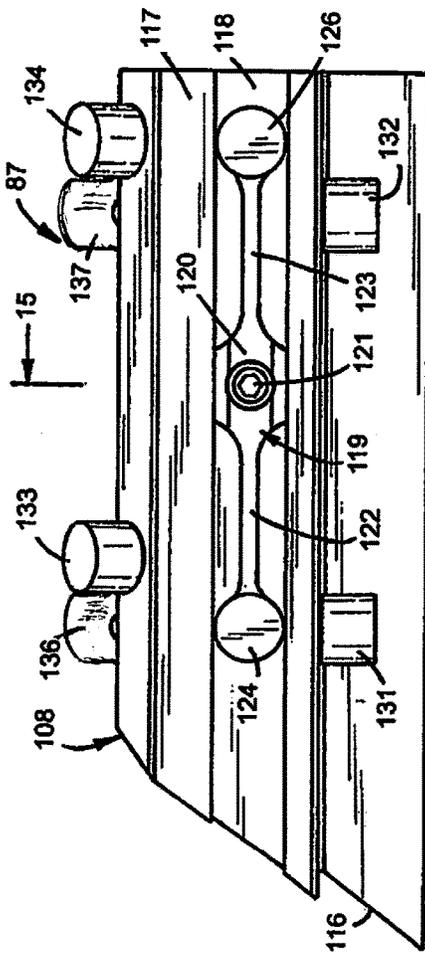


FIG. 12

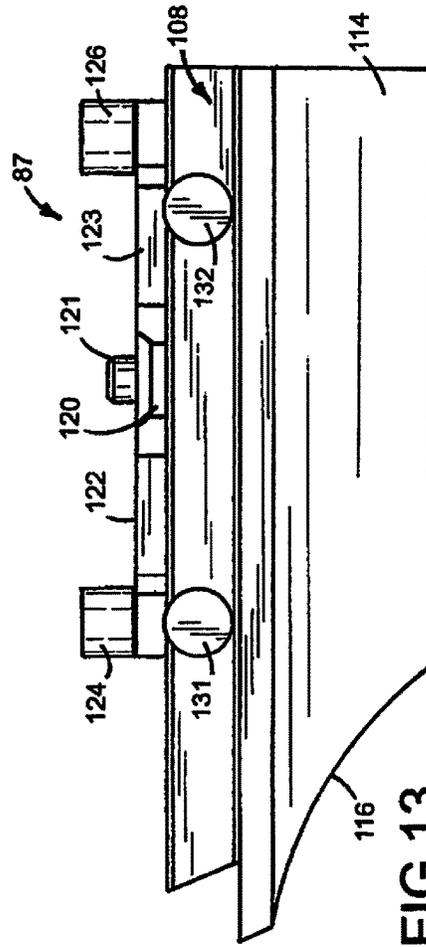


FIG. 13

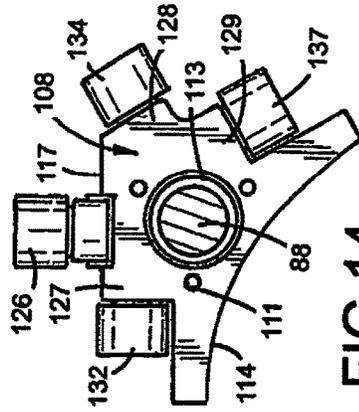


FIG. 14

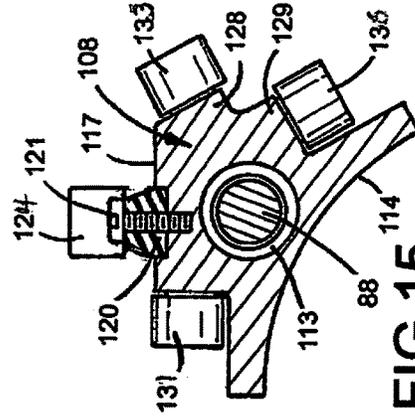


FIG. 15

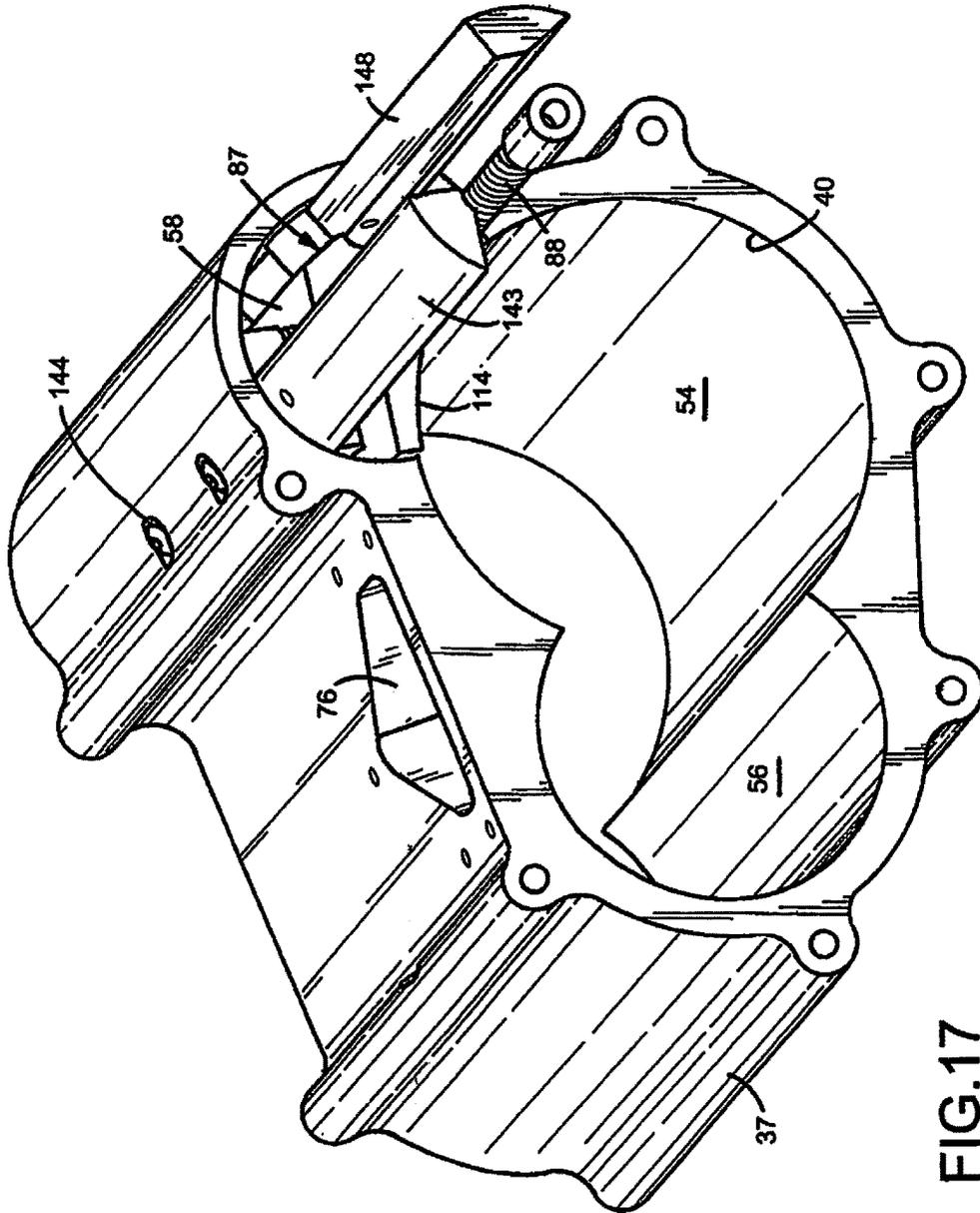


FIG.17

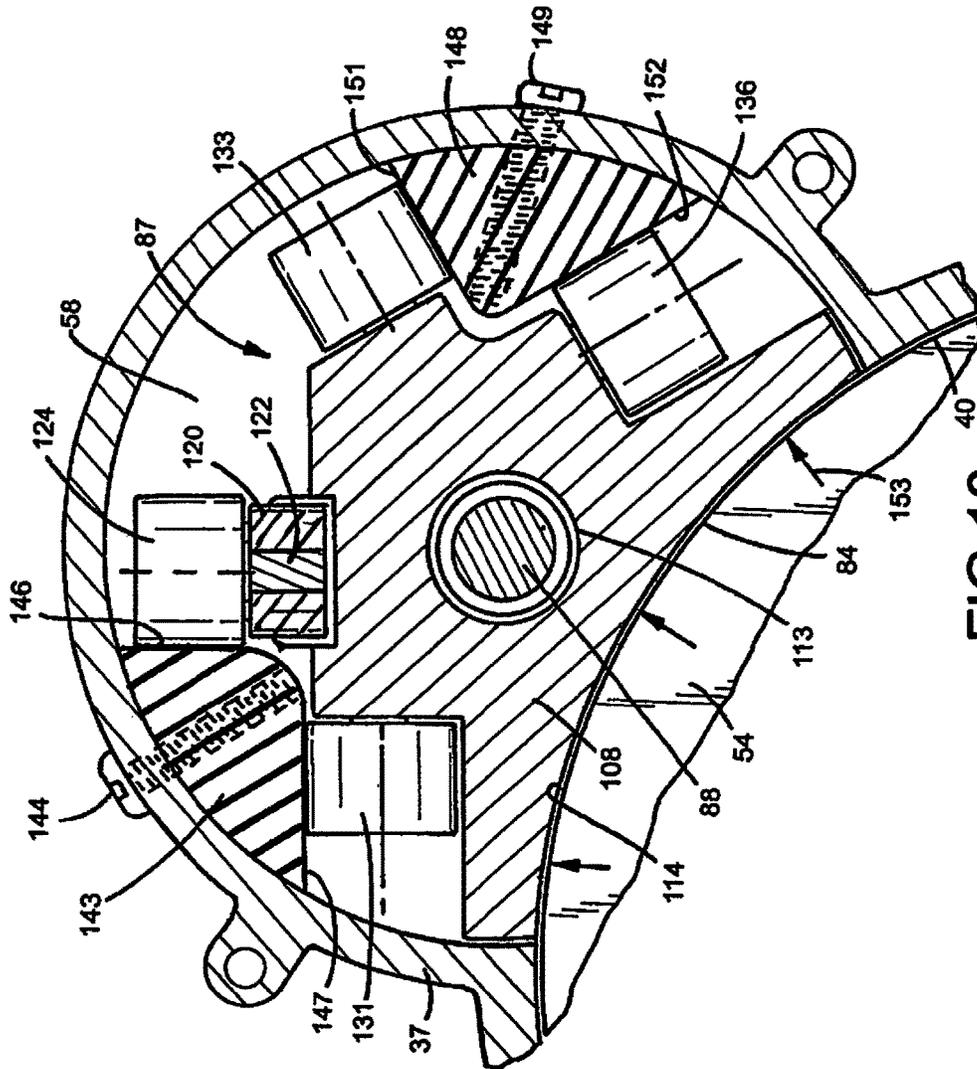


FIG. 18

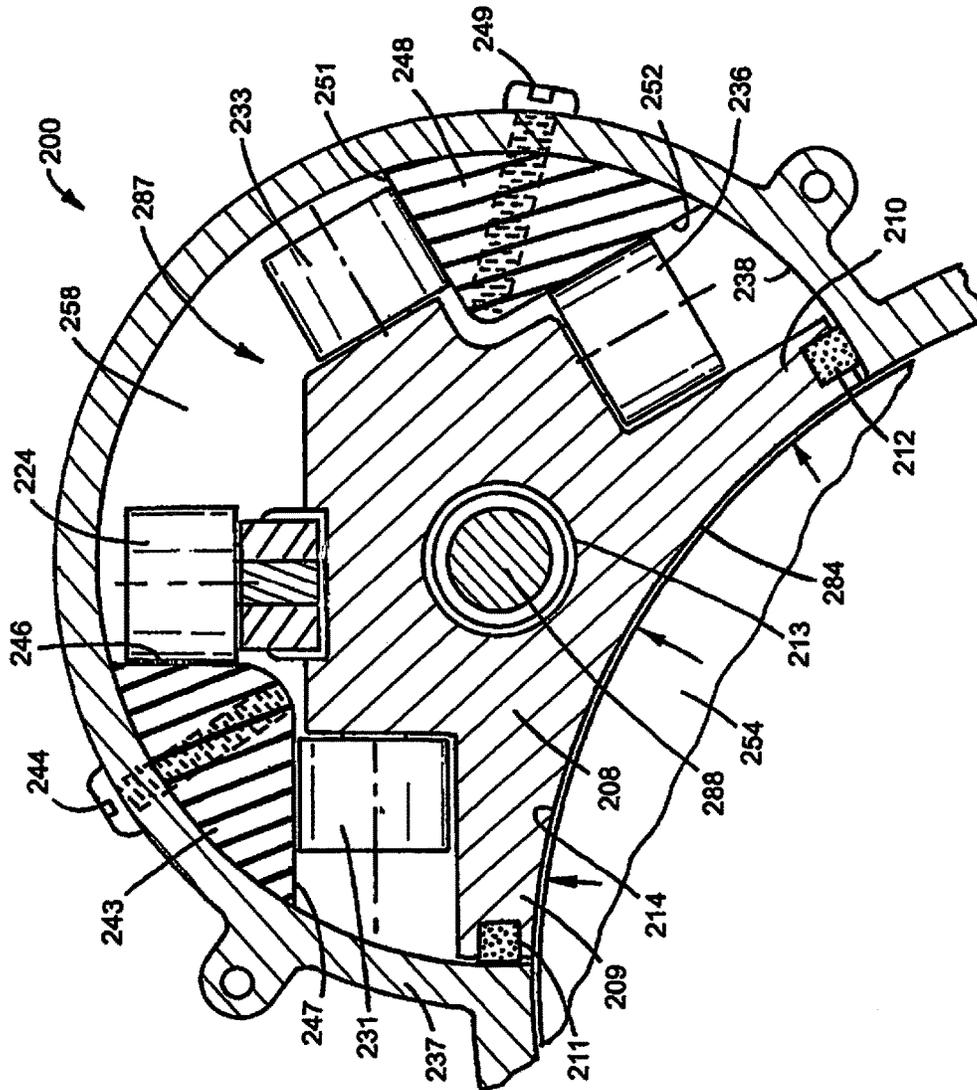


FIG. 19

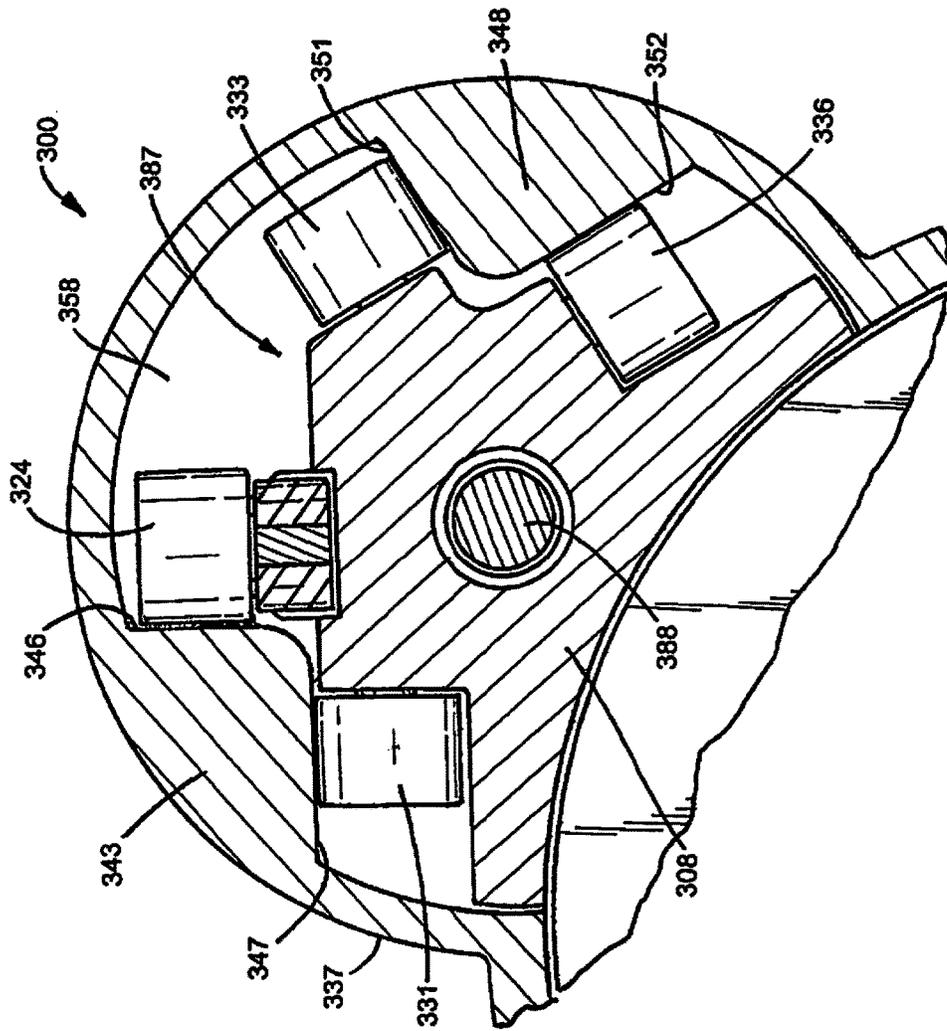


FIG. 20

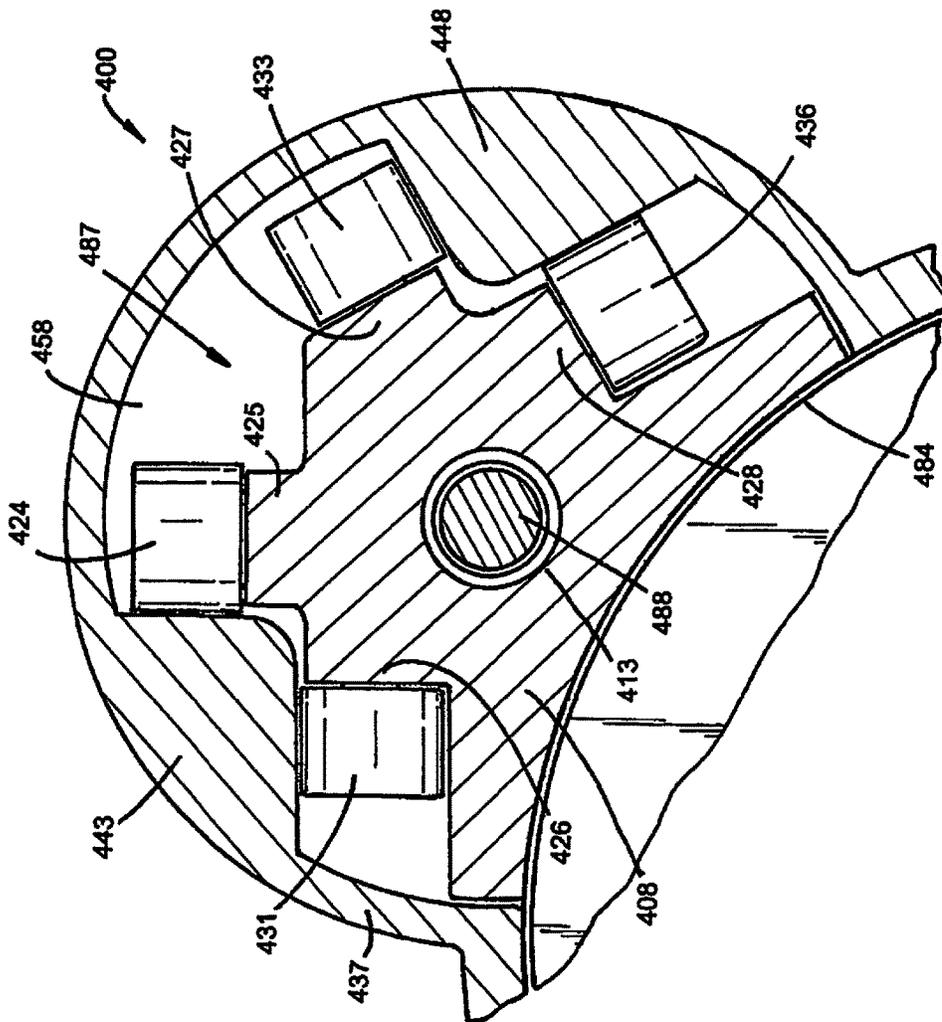


FIG. 21

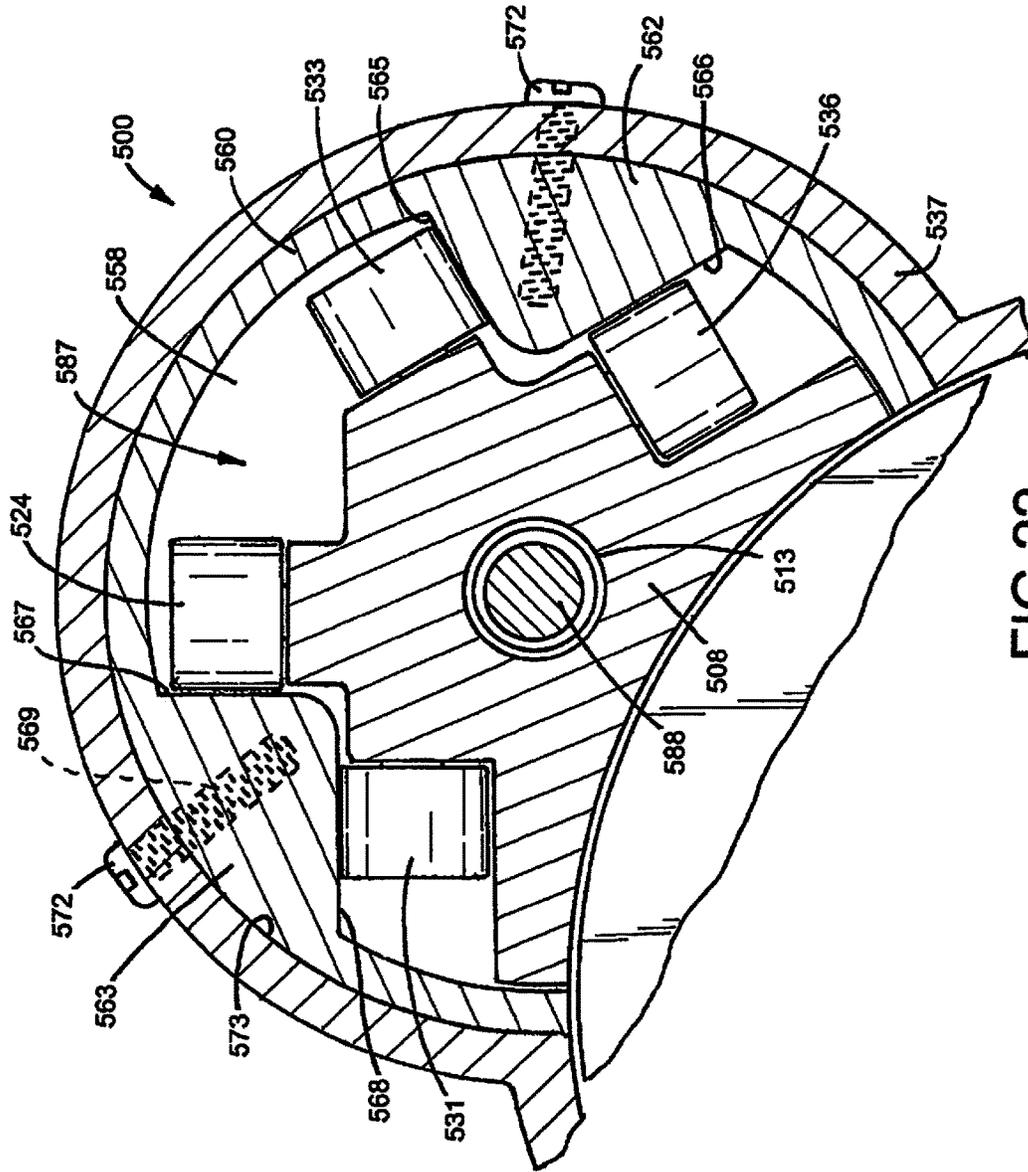


FIG. 22

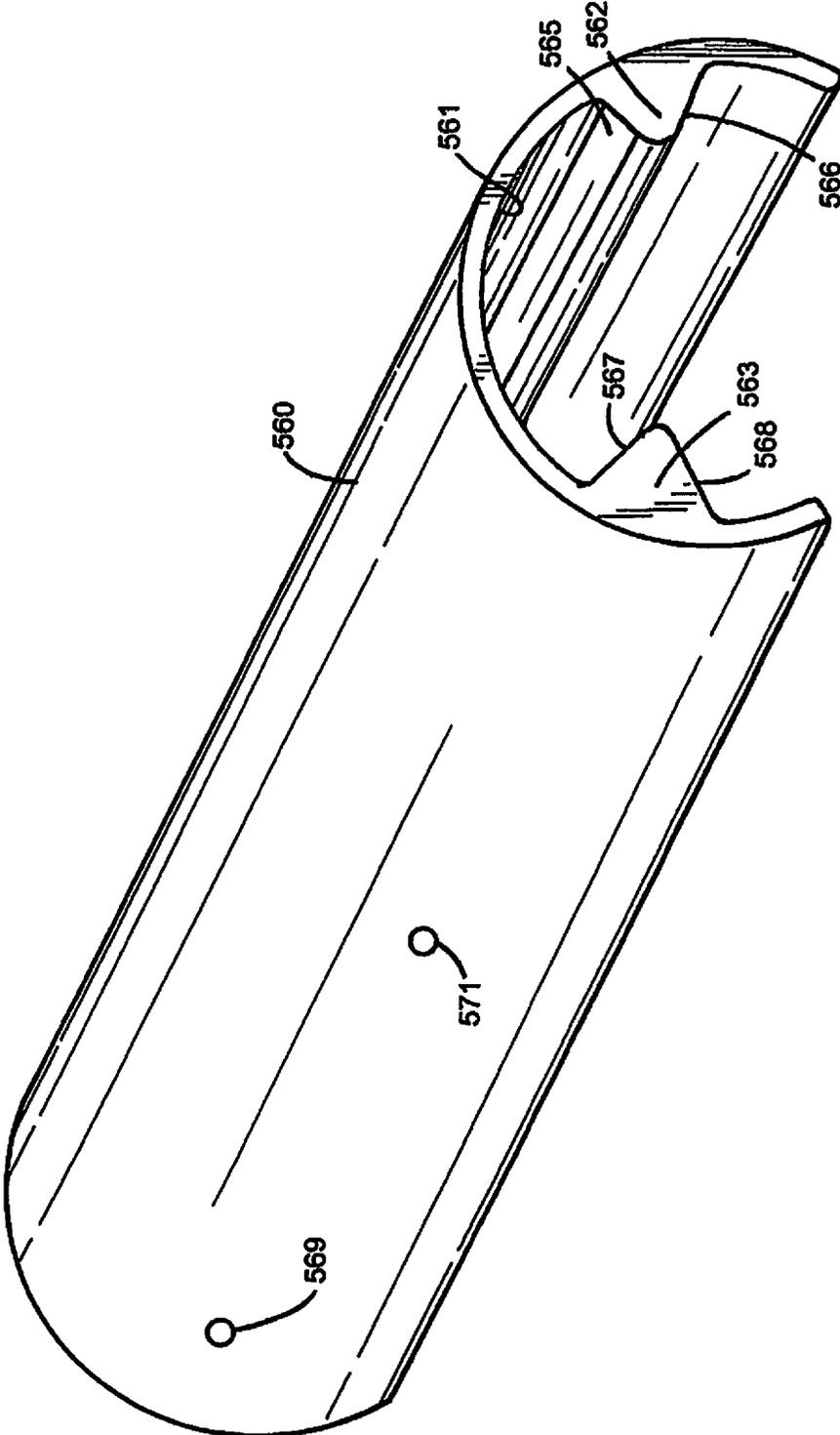
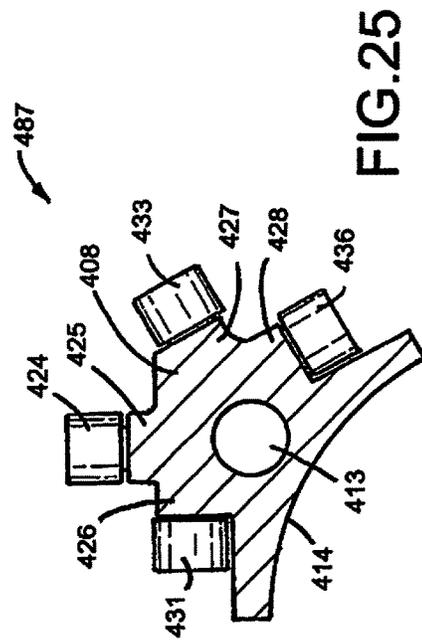
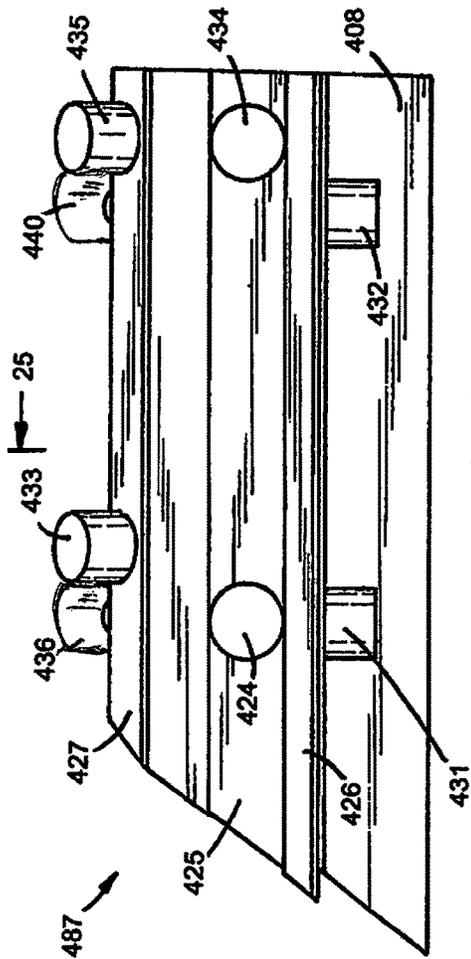


FIG.23



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METHOD OF SUPERCHARGING AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a division of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/338,340 filed Oct. 29, 2016. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/338,340 claims the priority of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 62/249,874 filed Nov. 2, 2015.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention is in the technical art of superchargers for internal combustion engines operable to supply air to the engines that ranges selectively from below through above atmospheric pressure conditions according to the power requirements of the engines to increase fuel efficiency and performance of the engines.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Air displacement devices are used to increase the supply of air and fuel to internal combustion engines to boost engine horsepower. An example of an air displacement device is the "Roots blower" shown by P. H. Roots in U.S. Pat. No. 30,157 and G. Scheerer in U.S. Pat. No. 2,201,014. Each of these devices has a belt-driven shaft that drives two close-clearance rotors. The rotating rotors during each rotation sweep out a specific volume of air to an air receiver, such as an internal combustion engine. The rotational speed of the rotors largely determines the unthrottled volume of air discharged by the device to an air receiver.

C. N. Hansen and P. C. Cross in U.S. Pat. No. 6,241,498 disclose a supercharger having cooperating rotors drivably connected to an internal combustion engine for delivering an air/fuel mixture to the combustion chamber of the engine. The rotors have semi-cylindrical pockets and protrusions that continuously move air through the supercharger. The unthrottled volume of air delivered by the supercharger depends on the operating speed of the engine that drives the supercharger. The unthrottled volume of air delivered by the supercharger operating at a constant speed and pressure varies little. There are no air flow controls to regulate air flowing into and out of the supercharger.

C. N. Hansen and P. C. Cross in U.S. Pat. No. 8,539,769 disclose an internal combustion engine combined with a variable displacement supercharger operable to provide varying amounts of air to the engine that range selectively from below through above atmospheric pressures responsive to the power requirements of the engine. The supercharger has an air intake and male and female rotors rotated by the engine to move a mass of air from the air intake to the engine. The rotors are located within a housing having an air bypass opening and an air bypass passage in communication with an air passage for directing bypass air to the air intake of the supercharger. A slide assembly is movably mounted on the supercharger housing for movement toward the air intake of the supercharger to change the position of the slide assembly along the length of the rotor, the mass of air directed to the engine and the mass of air flowing back to the air inlet of the supercharger. The slide assembly changes the position of the air bypass opening whereby more of the rotor lengths are effective to increase the mass of air above atmospheric pressure that is directed to the engine. A throttle valve located in the air inlet of the supercharger regulates the air mass flowing into the supercharger below atmospheric

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pressure to control the power of the engine when boost is not required. A control processor is used to regulate the positions of the slide assembly and throttle valve according to the power requirement of the engine.

5 T. D. Blackwell in U.S. Pat. No. 4,281,975 discloses a screw compressor with male and female rotors and a slide valve mounted within a cylindrical bore that intersects with the bores accommodating the rotors. Air pressure exerted against the slide valve results in friction and wear between the slide valve and adjacent structures. A cylindrical bore accommodates the slide valve. Anti-friction structures comprising rollers rotatably mounted on the slide valve located in grooves in the side wall of the bore accommodating the slide valve. An alternative anti-friction structure comprises transversely extended arcuate grooves in the surface of a cylindrical bore and anti-friction balls located in the grooves in the bores and grooves in the slide valve.

10 L. S. Anderson in U.S. Pat. No. 6,227,834 discloses a screw compressor having male and female rotors and an adjustable slide for regulating gas discharge pressure and capacity. The slide has opposite sides having longitudinal grooves. Rollers mounted on the side wall of the bore accommodating the slide are located in the grooves of the slide to prevent the slide from being pressed into engagement with the rotors and to secure the slide against rotational movements. The supercharger of the invention has novel and advantageous structures and functions which increase the operating performance of an internal combustion engine.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention comprises a supercharged internal combustion engine accommodating air that can range selectively from below through above atmospheric pressure according to the operating requirements of the engine. The internal combustion engine is generally a conventional 4-stroke engine capable of using any number of combustible fuels. The supercharged internal combustion engine has increased fuel efficiency over conventional internal combustion engines including turbo-charged engines. The fuel efficiency of the supercharged internal combustion engine is related to the compression ratio in the combustion chambers of the engine. The supercharged internal combustion engine operates at higher and more efficient compression ratios because the density of the retained gas fraction in the combustion chamber is lower at the end of the exhaust stroke. Reduced in-cylinder temperatures at the beginning of the compression stroke help to prevent detonation of the air/fuel mixture and allows for higher compression ratios, which improves fuel efficiency. The supercharger has a shuttle combined with a throttle valve operable to regulate varying amounts of a mass of air to the combustion chambers of the engine that ranges selectively from below atmospheric pressure to above atmospheric pressure according to the power requirement of the engine. The supercharger produces the lowest parasite power losses by minimizing the air pumping work required to meet the power requirement of the engine. The supercharger has a housing with chambers or bores accommodating male and female helical rotors. The housing includes a bypass air passage allowing air to flow from the bores back to an air intake casing attached to the housing. The air intake casing has an air inlet passage in communication with one or more air inlet openings to the bores accommodating the male and female rotors. The air inlet passage of the casing aids the flow of air to the air inlet ends of the rotors and minimizes and reduces turbulence of air flow to the rotors. A throttle valve regulates the flow of

atmospheric air into the air inlet passage of the air intake casing. The throttle valve operates between nearly closed to open positions to regulate the amount of the mass of air below atmospheric pressure or near atmospheric pressure flowing to the air intake casing. When the throttle valve is in the open position air is free to flow into the air intake casing allowing the supercharger to increase the pressure of the mass of air discharged by the supercharger above atmospheric pressure. The air inlet passage of the air inlet casing is surrounded with a diverging diffusion body or barrier separated from the casing wall with a peripheral space open to the bypass passage and a peripheral air exit opening in communication with the air inlet passage adjacent the air inlet to the chambers accommodating the rotors. The bypass air and inlet air flowing in the air inlet passages merges and entrains with a minimum of interference resulting in a smooth flow of air through the air inlet casing to the chambers containing the rotors. A wall separates the bores containing the rotors from a section of the bypass passage adjacent the air inlet casing. The wall prevents outward radial movement of air entering into the bores containing the rotors from the air inlet casing and enables full duration suction of air into the entrance or suction section of the supercharger resulting in improved inlet air volumetric efficiency. A pair of longitudinal rails located in the bypass passage provide linear guides for a shuttle that moves to open and close the opening between a chamber containing a rotor and the bypass passage. The shuttle moves to progressively increase or decrease the active length of the rotors to regulate the mass of air above atmospheric pressure directed to the engine. Each rail has outside linear flat surfaces angularly located relative to each other. The rails are secured with fasteners to the housing. Alternatively, the rails can be integral with the housing. Rollers rotatably mounted on the body of the shuttle ride on the outside linear surfaces of the rails during movement of the shuttle on the rails. A servo electric motor rotates a helical screw operatively connected to the shuttle to move the shuttle along the rails to vary the mass of air directed to the combustion chambers of the engine according to the power requirement of the engine. A controller responsive to engine operator input functions to control the shuttle positioning servo motor and throttle valve to regulate the mass of air supplied to the engine and bypass air directed into the bypass passage and back into the air flowing into the supercharger.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a supercharged internal combustion engine connected to a supercharger for supplying air to the engine;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 2-2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3-3 of FIG. 2 showing the roller shuttle in a closed no air bypass position;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken along line 3-3 for FIG. 2 showing the roller shuttle in an open air bypass position;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 5-5 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 6-6 of FIG. 5;

FIG. 7 is an enlarged sectional view of a modification of FIG. 5 of the air inlet casing;

FIG. 8 is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 8-8 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 9 is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 9-9 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 10 is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 10-10 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of the shuttle, helical screw and power unit operable to rotate the helical screw;

FIG. 12 is an enlarged top plan view of the shuttle of FIG. 11;

FIG. 13 is a front elevational view of FIG. 12;

FIG. 14 is an end elevational view of the right end of FIG. 12;

FIG. 15 is a sectional view taken along line 15-15 of FIG. 12;

FIG. 16 is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 16-16 of FIG. 11;

FIG. 17 is an enlarged perspective view of the air discharge end section of the supercharger of FIG. 1;

FIG. 18 is an enlarged sectional view of the shuttle and shuttle housing portion of FIG. 8;

FIG. 19 is an enlarged sectional view of a first modification of the shuttle and shuttle housing portion of FIG. 8;

FIG. 20 is an enlarged sectional view of a second modification of the shuttle and shuttle housing portion of FIG. 8;

FIG. 21 is an enlarged sectional view of a third modification of the shuttle and shuttle housing portion of FIG. 8;

FIG. 22 is an enlarged sectional view of a fourth modification of the shuttle and shuttle housing portion of FIG. 8;

FIG. 23 is a perspective view of the semi-circular sleeve with rails shown in FIG. 22;

FIG. 24 is a top plan view of the shuttle shown in FIG. 21; and

FIG. 25 is a sectional view taken along line 25-25 of FIG. 24.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A supercharged internal combustion engine 10, shown in FIG. 1, is operatively connected to a supercharger 11 operable to supply a mass of air to the engine. Engine 10 is a conventional internal combustion engine having four cylinders 12, 13, 14 and 15 accommodating pistons (not shown) operable to rotate a drive shaft 16. Engines having any number of cylinders can be operatively connected to supercharger 11 to supply a mass of air to the engines. Engine 10 has an air intake manifold 17 having a manifold chamber in air communication with cylinders 12 to 15. The exhaust gases generated by engine 10 are discharged through an exhaust manifold 18 into an exhaust gas treatment device and atmosphere. Fuel, such as gasoline, is introduced into cylinders 12 to 15 with fuel injectors 19, 20, 21 and 22 connected to a fuel pump 23. Spark igniters 24, 25, 26 and 27 associated with cylinders 12 to 15 are operable to initiate ignition of the air/fuel mixture in cylinders 12 to 15. Each igniter is wired to an electronic signal controller 28 operable to cause igniters 24 to 27 to generate electric sparks or arcs that cause the air/fuel mixture to burn in time sequences. Engine 10 includes internal combustion engines having intake manifolds that operate below atmospheric air pressure and or above atmospheric air pressure. Drive shaft 16 can be coupled to a motor vehicle drive system, a pump, an electric generator or power operated machines.

Supercharger 11 has a power input drive shaft 29 connected to a power transmitting apparatus 31 that drivably connects engine 10 to supercharger 11. Engine 10 has a front drive shaft 32 connected to a pulley or wheel 33. An endless belt 34 trained about pulley 33 transmits engine power to a pulley 36 connected to supercharger drive shaft 29. The operating speed of supercharger 11 is directly related to the operating speed of engine 10. Other power transmitting

apparatus including a gear drive or chain can be used to drivably connect engine drive shaft **32** to supercharger drive shaft **29**. An electric motor can be used to rotate the rotors of the supercharger.

Supercharger **11** operates to regulate varying amounts of a mass of air to the combustion chambers of cylinders **12** to **15** that ranges selectively from below atmospheric pressure to above atmospheric pressure according to the power requirement of engine **10**. In use, supercharger **11** operates with significantly less supercharger shaft power of a conventional screw supercharger for conditions typically dominating the normal motor vehicle driving cycle. Lower parasitic power losses are achieved by supercharger **11** by minimizing the air pumping work required to meet the current power requirement of the engine. Supercharged engine **10** has increased fuel efficiency compared to existing positive displacement supercharged engines and turbocharged engines. The fuel efficiency of engine **10** is closely related to the compression ratio in the combustion chambers of cylinders **12** to **15**. Engine **10** operates at a higher and more efficient compression ratio because the density of the retained gas fraction in the combustion chambers of cylinders **12** to **15** at the end of the exhaust stroke is lower than that of a turbocharged engine because of the exhaust back pressure difference. The temperature of the intake gas in the combustion chambers of cylinders **12** to **15** at the beginning of the compression stroke is lower which helps to prevent detonation thereby allowing for a higher compression ratio. The result is improved fuel efficiency of engine **10**.

Supercharger **11** has a main housing or body **37** with end members **38** and **39** adjacent opposite ends of body **37**. An air inlet housing or casing **41** is attached to end member **39** with fasteners **42**, shown as bolts or rods extended through end members **39** into threaded holes in body **37**. Other fastening structures can be used to assemble end members **38** and **39** and air inlet casing **41** to body **37**. Air inlet housing or casing **41** has a tubular extension **43** having an air inlet passage **44** as shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**.

A throttle device **46** connected to tubular extension **43** is operable to regulate varying amounts of a mass of air flowing into supercharger **11** thereby regulating varying amounts of a mass of air to the combustion chambers of cylinders **12** to **15** that ranges selectively from below atmospheric pressure to at or near atmospheric pressure according to the power requirement of engine **10**. Throttle valve device **46** includes a tubular member **47** having a passage **48** in communication with passage **44**. A disk throttle valve **49** is movably mounted on tubular member **47** for movement between open and nearly closed positions. An electric motor driven control unit **51** operatively connected to throttle valve **49** controls the open, partly open and nearly closed positions of throttle valve in response to signals generated by controller **28**. An air filter **52** attached to throttle valve device **46** cleans atmospheric air, shown by arrows **53**, prior to flowing through passages **48** and **44** into supercharger **11**. Other types of airflow control valves can be used to control the flow of air into the supercharger **11**.

Housing **37**, as shown in FIGS. **8**, **9** and **10**, has a first cylindrical chamber or bore **54** open to a second cylindrical chamber or bore **56**. Bores **54** and **56** have a common opening **57**. The size of opening **57** can vary. Housing **37** also has a passage or space **58** with an arcuate opening **59** open to cylindrical bore **54**. This opening has an arc of 50 degrees centered on the axis of rotation of shaft **62** accommodating rotor **61**. The arcuate length opening can vary. Male rotor **61** has five helical grooves **73** created by protrusions, lands or vanes **75** circumferentially spaced around

the outer perimeter of the rotor. Female rotor **63** has six circumferentially spaced helical pockets, chambers or grooves **74** which mesh with vane **75** of male rotor **61**. Each vane **75** has convex shaped outside walls that are complementary to the shapes of the inside walls of grooves **74** of female rotor **63**. The sizes, numbers, shapes, helical configurations, and extent of vanes **75** and grooves **74** can vary. As shown in FIG. **3**, male rotor **61** is mounted on an axial shaft **62**. Opposite ends of shaft **62** accommodate ball or roller bearings **66** and **67** retained on end members **38** and **39**. Female rotor **63** is mounted on axial shaft **64**. Bearings **68** and **69** support shaft **62** on end members **38** and **39**. Shafts **62** and **64** have parallel rotational axes. A drive gear **71** connected to shaft **64** is in driving engagement with a driven gear **72** connected to shaft **62**. Drive shaft **29** is connected to drive gear **71** whereby the internal combustion engine **10** connected to shaft **29** with power transmitting apparatus **31**, shown in FIG. **1**, rotates rotors **61** and **63** in opposite circumferential directions to move air through supercharger **11**. As shown in FIG. **9**, housing **37** has an air discharge or exit opening **76** open to bores **54** and **56** and a passage **77** in tubular member **78**. Tubular member **78** is joined to a base **79** secured with fasteners, shown as bolts, to housing **37**. The outer end of tubular member **78** is attached to an intercooler or heat exchanger **82** operable to reduce the temperature of the air flowing from supercharger **11** to an optional air mass flow sensor **80** located in the throttle body **47**. Air flow sensor **80** wired to controller **28** provides continuous electric signals to controller **28** corresponding to the air flow and air mass conditions directed into air inlet of casing **41**. Other methods and devices may be used to determine or infer air mass flow rate to air inlet of casing **41** utilizing input sensors for intake manifold air temperatures, intake manifold air pressure, throttle position and engine speed, etc. An air pressure sensor **85** interposed between heat exchanger **82** and air intake manifold **17** is wired to controller **28**. Air pressure sensor **85** generates air pressure signals that are transmitted to controller **28** which incorporates the air pressure signals in the program that controls supercharger **11**.

Returning to FIG. **4**, air intake section **50** of chamber **54** is separated with an arcuate wall **83** from passage **58**. Wall **83** extends from end member **39** to an air bypass opening **84** between chamber **54** and passage **58**. Wall **83** has a concave inside surface **86** that conforms with the inside surface of wall **55** of housing **37** surrounding chamber **54**. Wall **83** prevents outward radial movement of air away from rotor **61** and minimizes turbulence of air flow during the suction of the air into supercharger **11**. Full duration suction of air in the intake suction section **50** of chamber **54** improves air volumetric efficiency.

A shuttle **87** located in passage **58** moves along the length of passage **58** to regulate the length or size of bypass opening **84**. Shuttle **87** moves from a first no air flow position closing the bypass opening, as shown in FIG. **3**, to a second air flow position to a maximum bypass opening, as shown in FIG. **4**. Shuttle **87** also moves to intermediate positions between the close and maximum open locations to trap or confine in the grooves of the rotors the mass of air moved by supercharger **11** according to the operating requirement of internal combustion engine **10**. Shuttle **87** changes the size of air bypass opening **84** exposing more of the rotor lengths being effective to change the mass of air above atmospheric pressure that is directed to the engine. As shown in FIG. **11**, an actuator shown as a helical screw **88** rotated with an electric servo motor **89** is operatively connected to shuttle **87** to move shuttle **87** between the close,

nearly closed and maximum open locations thereby change bypass opening **84** and the effective air trapping length of the rotors. As shown in FIG. 1, electric servo motor **89** is wired with conductor **90** to controller **28**. An angle encoder **91** operatively connected to motor **89** senses the rotation of screw **88** providing controller **28** with data concerning the location of shuttle **87** relative to air bypass opening **84**. Controller **28** functions to generate signals which activate electric servo motor **89** to rotate screw **88** to change the location of shuttle **87** relative to bypass opening **84** to regulate the mass of bypass air flowing into passage **58**. Shuttle **87** can be linearly moved along rails **143** and **148** between an air flow open and partly open positions and no air flow closed position relative to air bypass opening **84** with actuators including a linear motor, a solenoid, pneumatic cylinder, hydraulic cylinder and a diaphragm or bellows, etc.

An operator control sensor **92** coupled to foot pedal **93** is used to provide controller **28** with operator demand electric signals responsive to movement of foot pedal **93** by the operator of engine **10**. When engine **10** is operating at low power levels and more power is demanded, controller **28** instructs motor control unit **51** to further open throttle valve **49** whereby more air flows into supercharger **11** and out of supercharger **11** to engine **10**. When throttle valve **49** is wide open and the operator demands more power by pressing foot pedal **93**, controller **28** then signals servo motor **89** to progressively move shuttle **87** to increase the effective air trapping length of the rotors thereby increasing the amount of air delivered to engine **10** to increase its power output. If the operator demands further increases in power and shuttle **87** is not yet at its maximum delivery position, controller **28** will continue to advance the shuttle position to increase the quantity of air delivered to engine **10** until a limiting condition is reached such as maximum engine speed or the knock-limited engine intake manifold air pressure, shuttle position, or mass airflow amount. Controller **28** can be pre-programmed with known limit values of knock-limited engine intake manifold air pressure, shuttle position, or mass airflow amount for each engine speed. If the operator demands more power and such limits have been reached, controller **28** will signal the vehicle transmission to downshift the gear ratio to the drive wheels to allow operation at a higher engine speed that will produce more power. Controller **28** continuously positions throttle valve **49** and/or shuttle **87** to the positions that provide the required amount of air to meet the demanded power at all engine speeds without exceeding the knock-limited intake manifold pressure of engine **10**.

Returning to FIGS. 4, 5, 6 and 7, bypass air passage **58** open to a passage **96** in air inlet casing **41** receives bypass air, shown by arrow **94**. Wall **55** and wall **83** direct air into passage **96** and peripheral space **98** between air inlet casing **41** and a barrier or air entrainment guide member **99**. Member **99** has a tubular neck **101** telescoped into and attached to tubular extension **43**. Neck **101** is joined to a diverging diffusion body **102** having an open end **103** spaced from the inner end **104** of air inlet casing **41**. A plurality of bosses **106** secure body **102** to air inlet casing **41** and maintain the peripheral space **98** between air inlet casing **41** and body **102**. Bypass air **94** flows from passage **58** into passage **96** and peripheral space **98** around body **102**. A peripheral column of bypass air, shown by arrows **107**, merges and entrains with atmospheric air, shown by arrows **45**, before air enters the suction section **50** of bores **54** and **56** accommodating rotors **61** and **63**. The air flows of bypass air and atmospheric air are aligned and entrained in the same

direction. The bypass air, shown by arrows **107**, has a minimum of interference with the flow of atmospheric air, shown by arrows **45**, in supercharger **11**. As shown in FIG. 3, when shuttle **87** is in a location closing the air bypass opening **84** air does not flow in passages **58** and **96** and through peripheral space **98** and into the suction section of supercharger **11**. All of the atmospheric air, shown by arrows **45**, flows uninterrupted through air inlet casing **41** into bores **54** and **56** of supercharger **11**.

A modification of air inlet housing **41** and air diverter or member **102** is shown in FIG. 7. The structures of the air inlet housing shown in FIG. 7 have the same reference numbers as FIG. 6 with a suffix A. Body **102A** is joined to housing extension **43A** whereby air inlet housing **41A** and body **102A** is a one-piece structure.

Shuttle **87**, shown in FIGS. 11 to 15, has a carriage or body **108** attached to a threaded member **109** with fasteners **111**, such as bolts. Helical screw **88** is threaded into threaded member **109** whereby rotation of helical screw **88** in selected clockwise or counterclockwise directions, shown by arrows **112**, linearly moves shuttle **87** in passage **58** to alter the size of air bypass opening **84** to change the effective air trapping length of the rotors, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4. Body **108** has a center longitudinal hole **113** accommodating helical screw **88**. Hole **113** extends through the length of body **108** allowing body **108** to linearly move relative to the length of helical screw **88**. Body **108** includes a concave wall **114** having an arcuate configuration concentric with the circumferential curvature of the peripheral edges of vanes **73** of rotor **61**. The forward face or end **116** of wall **114** is inclined in a forward direction at an angle of about 30 degrees relative to the longitudinal extent of wall **114**. Other inclined angles can be used for the forward end **116** of wall **114**. The inclined end **116** is generally complementary to the helical angle of the vanes of rotor **61** and facilitates the flow of bypass air from rotor **61** into air bypass passage **58**. Body **108** has a top surface **117** with a longitudinal groove **118** extended along the length of surface **117**. A spring beam **119** has a middle section **120** attached with a fastener **121**, shown as a bolt, to body **108**. Middle section **120** of beam **119** has side edges contacting the opposite edges of body **108** of groove **118** to prevent turning or rotation of beam **119** on body **108**. Beam **119** has spring arms **122** and **123** joined to center section **120**. Arms **122** and **123** are equal in length and extend in opposite longitudinal directions from center section **120**. Upwardly extended cylindrical rollers **124** and **126** are attached to the outer ends of arms **122** and **123**. As shown in FIGS. 14 and 15, body **108** has shoulders **127**, **128** and **129**. Cylindrical rollers **131** and **132** are rotatably mounted on shoulder **127**. The axes of rotation of rollers **131** and **132** are 90 degrees from the axes of rotation of rollers **124** and **126**. The angular relationship between the axes of rotation of rollers **124**, **126** and **131**, **132** can vary. Cylindrical rollers **133** and **134** are rotatably mounted on shoulder **128**. Cylindrical rollers **136** and **137** are rotatably mounted on shoulder **129**. The axes of rotation of rollers **133** and **134** and rollers **136** and **137** are 90 degrees apart. Other angular relationships between the axes of rotation of rollers **133**, **134** and **136**, **137** can be used.

Rollers **124**, **126**, **131-134** and **136**, **137** are the same size with continuous outer cylindrical surfaces. FIG. 16 shows roller **136** having an inverted cap-shaped casing **138** retained on a needle bearing **139** with a washer **141**. A bolt **142** extended through needle bearing **139** is threaded into shoulder **127** of body **108**. Other types of rollers can be used with body **108** to rotatably support shuttle **87** in air bypass passage **58**.

As shown in FIGS. 17 and 18, a pair of rails or tracks 143 and 148 located in passage 58 cooperate with shuttle 87 for low friction linearly guiding shuttle 87 along rails 143 and 148 for rapid movement between the air bypass open and closed positions of shuttle 87. Fasteners 144 and 149 secure rails 143 and 148 to the inside wall surrounding passage 58 of housing 37. Rails 143 and 148 are circumferentially spaced 135 degrees from each other. The circumferential distance between rails 143 and 148 can vary. Rail 143 has a linear flat first side surface 146 and a linear second flat side surface 147. Surfaces 146 and 147 extend the length of rail 143 and are in planes located 90 degrees from each other. Surfaces 146 and 147 can have different angle relationships. Second rail 148 has a linear flat first side surface 151 and a linear flat second side surface 152. Surfaces 151 and 152 extend the length of rail 148 and are disposed 90 degrees from each other. Other angular relationships between surfaces 151 and 152 can be used. Rollers 124, 131, 126 and 132 ride on rail 143. Rollers 133, 136, 134 and 137 ride on rail 148. The rollers engage linear surfaces 146, 147 and 151, 152 of rails 143 and 148 to locate wall 114 concentric with the cylindrical inside wall 40 of housing 37. The axes of rotation of rollers 124 and 131 are parallel to flat surfaces 146 and 147 of rail 143. The axes of rotation of rollers 133 and 136, shown in broken lines in FIG. 18, are parallel to flat surfaces 151 and 152 of rail 148. The rollers have low friction contact with rails 143 and 148 which allows shuttle 87 to be rapidly moved with a minimum of force of servo motor 89.

Returning to FIGS. 12, 13 and 18, shuttle 87 is subjected to air pressure, shown by arrows 153 in FIG. 18, generated in chamber 54 by the rotation of rotors 61 and 63. The air pressure on wall 114 of shuttle 87 forces rollers 131 and 132 into contact with linear flat surface 147 of rail 143. The air pressure on wall 114 also forces rollers 136 and 137 into contact with linear flat surface 152 of rail 148. Rollers 131, 132 on rail 143 and rollers 136, 137 on rail 148 prevent outward or radial movement of shuttle 87 relative to housing 37 and rotor 61 and prevents turning or rotation of shuttle 87 in passage 58. Rollers 124 and 126 are biased into contact with linear flat surface 146 of rail 143. Arms 122 and 123 are flexed to retain rollers 124 and 126 in contact with linear flat surface 146 of rail 143. Spring beam 119 applies a biasing force on rollers 124 and 126 that compensates for transient pressure reversals, manufacturing tolerances and thermal growth differentials of housing 37 and of shuttle 87.

A second embodiment 200 of shuttle 287, shown in FIG. 19, is located in air bypass passage 258 of housing 237. Rails 243 and 248 are secured to housing 237 with fasteners 244 and 249. Rail 243 has inwardly converging linear flat surfaces 246 and 247. Rollers 224 and 231 rotatably mounted on body 208 ride on surfaces 246 and 247. Rail 248 has inwardly converging linear flat surfaces 251 and 252. Rollers 233 and 236 rotatably mounted on body 208 ride on surfaces 251 and 252. Shuttle 287 is moved along rails 243 and 248 with a helical screw 288 driven by a servo electric motor. Screw 288 extends through an axial hole 213 through body 208. The drive mechanism for shuttle 287 comprises a helical screw, a nut and a servo electric motor assembly as shown in FIG. 11. Body 208 has a concave surface 214 closing the air bypass opening 284 between chamber 254 and air bypass passage 258. The opposite linear side portions 209 and 210 have linear longitudinal grooves accommodating linear seals 211 and 212. Seals 211 and 212 are elongated plastic members. Other materials including metal and composite materials can be used for seals 211 and 212. The outer surfaces of seals 211 and 212 located in sliding contact with

the inside surface 238 of housing 237 prevent air from flowing from chamber 254 around shuttle 287 into bypass passage 258.

A third embodiment 300 of shuttle 387 and housing 337, shown in FIG. 20, illustrates rails 343 and 348 integral with housing 337. Rail 343 has inward converging linear flat surfaces 346 and 347. Rail 348 has inward converging linear flat surfaces 351 and 352. Rollers 324 and 331 rotatably mounted on body 308 of shuttle 387 ride on surfaces 346 and 347 of rail 343 and rollers 333 and 336 ride on surfaces 351 and 352 of rail 348 during movement of shuttle 387 in air bypass passage 358. An elongated screw 388 driven by a servo electric motor moves shuttle 387 along passage 358 between air bypass open and closed locations to control the mass of air directed to the internal combustion engine according to the power requirements of the engine.

A fourth embodiment 400 of shuttle 487 and housing 437, shown in FIG. 21, has shuttle 487 located in an air bypass passage 458. Shuttle 487 has a body 408 with an axial hole 413 accommodating an elongated helical screw 488 driveably connected to a servo electric motor to move shuttle 487 along bypass passage 458. Shuttle body 408 has linear shoulders 425, 426, 427 and 428 rotatably supporting rollers 424, 431, 433 and 436. Rollers 424 and 431 ride on rail 443 and rollers 433 and 436 ride on rail 448 during movement of shuttle 487 along passage 458 between air bypass open and closed locations to control the mass of air directed to the internal combustion engine according to the power requirements of the engine. As shown in FIGS. 24 and 25, shuttle 487 has additional rollers 432 and 434 that ride on rail 443 and rollers 435 and 440 that ride on rail 448.

A fifth embodiment 500 of the shuttle and housing accommodating the shuttle, shown in FIGS. 22 and 23, has a shuttle 587 located in an elongated air passage 558 in a semi-cylindrical sleeve 560. Passage 558 is an air bypass passage open to a rotor chamber and air inlet casing. Sleeve 560 has an inside semi-cylindrical surface 561. Rails 562 and 563 projected inwardly from surface 561 into passage 558 are circumferentially spaced 135 degrees from each other. Other circumferential spacing between rails 562 and 563 can be used to support shuttle 587 on sleeve 560. Rail 562 has inward converging flat linear surfaces 565 and 566 extended along the length of sleeve 560. Rail 563 has inward converging surfaces 567 and 568 extended along the length of sleeve 560. As shown in FIG. 22, sleeve 560 is located within housing 537. The outside wall of sleeve 560 is in surface contact with the inside wall 573. Fasteners 572, shown as bolts, threaded into holes 569 and 571 secure sleeve 560 to housing 537. Rollers 524 and 531 rotatably mounted on shuttle body 508 ride on rail surfaces 567 and 568 and rollers 533 and 536 ride on rail surfaces 565 and 566 during movement of shuttle 587 along passage 558. Body 508 has an axial hole 513 accommodating a helical screw 588. Screw 588 is operatively connected to a servo motor which rotates screw 588 causing shuttle 587 to move along passage 558. The drive mechanism for shuttle 587 comprises a helical screw, a nut, and a servo electric motor assembly, as shown in FIG. 11.

The supercharger has been shown and described with reference to preferred embodiments of the air intake casing and shuttle for controlling the mass of air directed to an internal combustion engine. Modifications of the supercharger, air mass flow controls, shuttle, and shuttle drive mechanisms can be made by persons skilled in the art without departing from the invention.

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The invention claimed is:

1. A method of supplying a compressed air mass to an internal combustion engine with a supercharger having a housing including a chamber accommodating two helical rotors, an air mass inlet end open to the chamber, a compressed air mass exit opening for directing a compressed air mass from the chamber to the internal combustion engine, an uncompressed air mass opening open to the chamber and an uncompressed air mass bypass passage, linear rails joined to the housing and extended into the air mass bypass passage, a shuttle having rollers supported on the linear rails located in the air mass bypass passage, and a casing having an air mass inlet to allow an air mass to flow into the chamber of the housing and an air mass chamber open to the air mass bypass passage and air mass inlet end of the housing characterized by:

generating a continuous flow of an air mass through the casing and into the chamber of the housing by rotating the two helical rotors about parallel axes,

preventing an air mass in the chamber of the housing before the uncompressed air mass opening from flowing into the air mass bypass passage,

supporting the rollers of the shuttle on the linear rails,

moving the shuttle along the linear rails parallel to the axes of rotation of the two helical rotors to vary the mass of uncompressed air mass expelled from the chamber into the air mass bypass passage and the mass of compressed air mass expelled from the chamber through the air mass exit opening to the internal combustion engine to regulate power of the internal combustion engine,

directing the uncompressed air mass in the air mass bypass passage to the air mass chamber of the casing, allowing the uncompressed air mass in the air mass chamber of the casing to flow through the air mass chamber of the casing to the air mass inlet of the housing, and

entraining the uncompressed air mass flowing from the casing to the air mass inlet of the housing with the air mass flowing out of the casing into the chamber of the housing.

2. The method of claim 1 further characterized by:

moving the shuttle along the linear rails with a power unit, and

controlling the operation of the power unit responsive to the power requirements of the internal combustion engine.

3. The method of claim 1 further characterized by:

channeling the uncompressed air mass flowing in the chamber of the casing into an annular column of uncompressed air mass located around the air mass flowing from the casing air mass inlet through the casing, and

said annular column of uncompressed air mass being entrained with the air mass flowing out of the casing into the chamber of the housing.

4. The method of claim 1 further characterized by:

drivably connecting the internal combustion engine to the two helical rotors whereby the internal combustion engine rotates the two helical rotors to generate the continuous flow of an air mass into and compressed and uncompressed air masses out of the chamber of the housing,

5. The method of claim 1 further characterized by: introducing fuel into the compressed air mass in the internal combustion engine, and

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providing command signals with a controller responsive to movement of the shuttle along the linear rails to regulate the amount of fuel introduced into the internal combustion engine according to the power requirement of the internal combustion engine.

6. A method of supplying a compressed air mass to an internal combustion engine with a supercharger having a housing including a chamber accommodating two helical rotors, an air mass inlet open to the chamber, a compressed air mass exit opening for directing a compressed air mass to the internal combustion engine, an uncompressed air mass opening open to the chamber and an uncompressed air mass bypass passage, linear rails joined to the housing and extended into the air mass bypass passage, and a shuttle having rollers supported on the linear rails extended into the air mass bypass passage, and a casing having an air mass inlet to allow an air mass to flow into the chamber of the housing and an air mass chamber open to the air mass bypass passage and air mass inlet of the housing characterized by:

generating a continuous flow of an air mass through the casing and into the chamber of the housing by rotating the two helical rotors about parallel axes,

moving the shuttle along the linear rails parallel to the axes of rotation of the two helical rotors to vary the mass of uncompressed air mass expelled from the chamber into the air mass bypass passage and the mass of compressed air mass expelled from the chamber through the air mass exit opening to the internal combustion engine to regulate power of the internal combustion engine,

directing the uncompressed air mass in the air mass bypass passage to the air mass chamber of the casing, allowing the uncompressed air mass in the air mass chamber of the casing to flow through the casing to the air mass inlet of the housing, and

entraining the uncompressed air mass flowing from the casing to the air mass inlet of the housing with the air mass flowing out of the casing into the chamber of the housing.

7. The method of claim 6 further characterized by:

moving the shuttle along the linear rails with a power unit, and

controlling the operation of the power unit responsive to the power requirements of the internal combustion engine.

8. The method of claim 6 further characterized by:

channeling the uncompressed air mass flowing in the casing into an annular column of uncompressed air mass located around the air mass flowing from the air mass inlet through the casing, and

said annular column of uncompressed air mass being entrained with the air mass flowing out of the casing into the chamber of the housing.

9. The method of claim 6 further characterized by:

drivably connecting the internal combustion engine to the two helical rotors whereby the internal combustion engine rotates the two helical rotors to generate the continuous flow of an air mass into and compressed and uncompressed air masses out of the chamber of the housing,

10. The method of claim 6 further characterized by:

introducing fuel into the compressed air mass in the internal combustion engine, and

providing command signals with a controller responsive to movement of the shuttle along the linear rails to regulate the amount of fuel introduced into the internal

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combustion engine according to the power requirement of the internal combustion engine.

11. A method of supplying a compressed air mass to an internal combustion engine with a supercharger having a housing including a chamber accommodating two helical rotors, a compressed air mass exit opening for directing a compressed air mass from the chamber to the internal combustion engine, an uncompressed air mass opening open to the chamber and an uncompressed air mass bypass passage, linear rails joined to the housing and extended into the air mass bypass passage, and a shuttle having rollers supported on the linear rails, and a casing having an air mass inlet to allow an air mass to flow into the chamber of the housing characterized by:

generating a continuous flow of an air mass through the casing and into the chamber of the housing by rotating the two helical rotors about parallel axes,

preventing an air mass in the chamber of the housing before the uncompressed air mass opening from flowing into the air mass bypass passage,

supporting the rollers of the shuttle on the linear rails, moving the shuttle along the linear rails to vary the mass of uncompressed air mass expelled from the chamber of the housing into the air mass bypass passage and the mass of compressed air mass expelled from the chamber of the housing through the air mass exit opening to the internal combustion engine to regulate power of the internal combustion engine, and

directing the uncompressed air mass in the air mass bypass passage to the casing and from the casing to the chamber of the housing.

12. The method of claim 11 further characterized by: moving the shuttle along the linear rails with a power unit, and

controlling the operation of the power unit responsive to the power requirements of the internal combustion engine.

13. The method of claim 11 further characterized by: drivably connecting the internal combustion engine to the two helical rotors whereby the internal combustion engine rotates the two helical rotors to generate the continuous flow of an air mass into and compressed and uncompressed air masses out of the chamber of the housing.

14. The method of claim 11 further characterized by: introducing fuel into the compressed air mass in the internal combustion engine, and

providing command signals with a controller responsive to movement of the shuttle along the linear rails to regulate the amount of fuel introduced into the internal combustion engine according to the power requirement of the internal combustion engine.

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15. A method of supplying a compressed air mass to an internal combustion engine with a supercharger having a housing including a chamber accommodating two helical rotors, a compressed air mass exit opening for directing a compressed air mass to the internal combustion engine, an uncompressed air mass opening open to the chamber and an uncompressed air mass bypass passage open to the uncompressed air mass opening, linear rails joined to the housing and extended into the air mass bypass passage, and a shuttle supported on the linear rails, and a casing having a first air mass inlet to allow an air mass to flow into the chamber of the housing and a second air mass inlet open to the uncompressed air mass bypass passage to allow the uncompressed air to flow into the chamber of the housing characterized by:

generating a continuous flow of an air mass through the casing and into the chamber of the housing by rotating the two helical rotors,

supporting the shuttle on the linear rails for linear movement on the linear rails,

moving the shuttle along the linear rails to vary the mass of uncompressed air mass expelled from the chamber into the air mass bypass passage and the mass of compressed air mass expelled from the chamber through the air mass exit opening to the internal combustion engine to regulate power of the internal combustion engine,

directing the uncompressed air mass in the air mass bypass passage to the second air mass inlet of the casing and from the casing to the chamber of the housing.

16. The method of claim 15 further characterized by: providing the shuttle with rollers, and

supporting the rollers on the linear rails for movement of the shuttle along the linear rails.

17. The method of claim 15 further characterized by: drivably connecting the internal combustion engine to the two helical rotors whereby the internal combustion engine rotates the two helical rotors to generate the continuous flow of an air mass into and compressed and uncompressed air masses out of the chamber of the housing.

18. The method of claim 15 further characterized by: introducing fuel into the compressed air mass in the internal combustion engine, and

providing command signals with a controller responsive to movement of the shuttle along the linear rails to regulate the amount of fuel introduced into the internal combustion engine according to the power requirement of the internal combustion engine.

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